

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Edmond Bresh, Walter Isaacs, Tom Milos, Annette Krietler, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, and Judy DiLorenzo.

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the Coronavirus.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – EPHESIANS

Ephesians is one of the captivity epistles along with Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. The author of all four indicates that he is writing from prison. The letter is among the most doctrinal of all the Pauline letters. It is a synthesis and development of theological concepts found in earlier epistles ascribed to Paul.

In the earlier epistles, the emphasis was on the justification and salvation of the individual. However, Ephesians emphasizes the union and reconciliation in Christ of two groups, the Jews and the Gentiles.

Scholars disagree as to the authorship of the letter. If Paul was the author, then it is probable that Paul wrote the letter during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 60-62. Scholars who argue against direct Pauline authorship are not in agreement on the date of its writing, though some argue that it must have been written in the last quarter of the first century.

The epistle may be divided as follows: the position of the Christian (1:1 through 3:21); and the practice of the Christian (4:1 through 6:20).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saint Valentine, Patron Saint of bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people. February 14

Saints Cyril and Methodius, Patron Saints of Slavic Peoples and Ecumenism. February 14

Saint Claude de la Colombière, Promoter of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, February 15

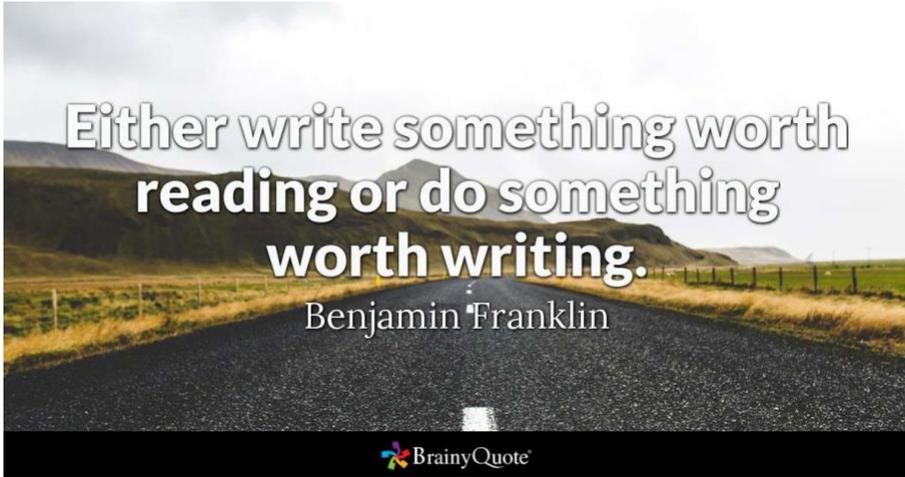
Saint Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the religious order The Gilbertines, which reflected St. Gilbert's lifelong concern for the poor. The order came to an end during the reign of King Henry VIII with the suppression of all Catholic monasteries. February 16

Blessed John of Fiesole, Patron Saint of Christian Artists. Michelangelo once said of Fra Angelico, "One has to believe that this good monk has visited paradise and been allowed to choose his models there." February 18

Saint Conrad of Piacenza, A reputation for holiness, prayer and penance were his answer to the temptations that beset him. Conrad died kneeling before a crucifix. February 19

Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto, On the 13th day of the month from May through October 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Sts. Jacinta and Marto along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos in Fatima. The Holy Mother was sent by God with a message, which consisted for three secrets. Responding to the disbelief of many a sign was promised, the Miracle of the Sun, that was witnessed by 70,000 onlookers. February 20





**St. Joseph of Stratford
National Catholic Church**



February 14, 2021 –Quinquagesima Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

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In today's second reading (2 Corinthians 3:1-6), St. Paul speaks of the believers in Corinth as being letters of Christ written on their hearts, known and read by all. Through the believers in Corinth, and through the generations of Christians since then, that same letter is written on our hearts. This raises the question, how faithful are we to that letter? When people "read" us by listening to what we say and observing what we do are they hearing the letter of Christ or some redacted version of that letter edited to suit our needs?

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Mass celebrations are Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm & Sunday Morning at 10:00am

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